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for it — and which raised it above any other court in the world — but also, and as a necessary result, gave to his profession and ours a new importance, dignity, and responsibility. At the same time he taught us how to realize its importance with modesty, to maintain its dignity without affectation, and to discharge its responsibility with courage and power. If Judge Dillon's collection enforces these lessons, by the new interest and enthusiasm it may well inspire, it will indeed prove its value.

H. W. D.

THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW OF CONTRACT. By Louis L. Hammon. St. Paul: Keefe-Davidson Company. 1902. pp. xxx, 1233. 8vo.

The law of contract constitutes a basis of so large a part of the common law system and has such a vital influence upon all business relations that a new discussion of the subject is almost always helpful and welcome. The present work covers the whole field quite exhaustively, with especial reference to its modern developments. In addition to the more fundamental principles, it includes several matters not generally discussed so fully in the usual work of this kind. The chapter dealing with illegal contracts is especially noteworthy in this regard. The discussions also of the capacity of parties, and the effect of mistake, misrepresentation, fraud and undue influence, deserve particular mention. It is the full treatment of topics such as these that gives completeness and value to this work.

As in case of several other publications of this house that we have had occasion to notice, considerable care has been taken to render the contents of the book readily accessible. This is accomplished by means of analytical tables of contents for each chapter, black-letter titles for each section, and black-letter summaries for the main topics. This method not only greatly reduces the mechanical labor of legal investigation, but also adds considerably to the clearness of the discussion through the careful analysis of the subject that is necessary for the proper execution of such a plan. The writer has done this part of his work thoroughly and well.

Though the scope of the volume is very comprehensive, many of the topics are stated merely in outline or with only a brief discussion of the main rule. This, however, is wise, for a general text-book of this nature should not be encyclopædic, but should leave more detailed consideration to special investigators. It should bring together all the general principles of the subject into one connected discussion, which may be a convenient reference manual for the practitioner and the student, and serve as a point of departure for more detailed research. This end Mr. Hammon has accomplished with considerable success. The work is distinctively commendable and should prove acceptable to the profession.

W. H. H.

HUGHES ON CONTRACTS. By William T. Hughes. Chicago: Callaghan and Co. 1903. pp. 608. 8vo.

The plan of this book is novel. The author has divided it into three parts containing respectively twenty, one hundred and thirty-two, and four hundred and thirty-nine pages. In the first part he discusses the fundamental conceptions of law, and in the second the leading phases of the subject of contracts. The last part, styled a text-index, constitutes the most important and most valuable part of the work. It consists of a digest or encyclopædia of leading cases arranged alphabetically both under the name of the case and under an appropriate topic. The citation of each case is given not only to the regular reports but also to text-books, case-books, and other works in which discussions of it may be found. Under each case similar cases are also cited and briefly abstracted. The purpose of the author, as explained in his preface, is not to